



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 20, 2013

RAISED BILL No. 6391 **AAC THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.**

Testimony of Vanessa Pomarico-Denino IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6391

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee

Thank you for raising this bill at our request.

My name is Vanessa Pomarico-Denino, MSN, FNP-BC, an APRN and President of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society. CTAPRNS strongly supports this bill as many APRNs have difficulty finding physicians to serve as their collaborators. Due to this barrier, many APRNs have had to close their practices or seek employment elsewhere.

Removal of this clause **will not** change how we practice. As with all other disciplines in medicine, APRN's will continue to utilize our resource and referrals when necessary.

A shortage of primary care providers (PCPs) exists and will only continue to worsen as more PCP's retire and fewer are going into primary care but are becoming educated as specialists. This is leaving a huge void in the number of PCP's who are taking new patients. The Affordable Care Act will benefit patients who will now have insurance but will be unable to find a provider accepting new patients. Removal of this clause would allow more APRN's to continue to provide the outstanding care they have been known for but also allow more patient accessibility to APRNs who open their practice to new patients.

Removal of this barrier will also ensure that patients will not lose their current providers due to loss of their collaborating MD

Removal of this clause will also largely impact the psychiatric APRN's who provide necessary mental health services. Gun violence has recently highlighted the well known fact that our society needs **more** psychiatric providers, not less.

I urge you to consider the removal of this clause to ensure the health and safety of the general public.